

NINETY-SIXTH YEAR.

SUNDAY, MORNING, MAY 15, 1904.

PRICE FIVE CENTS.

VERDICT OF CORONERS JURY DOES NOT SATISFY THE RELATIVES OF WENTZ

Mystery of Wentz's Death Is Deeper Since the Inquest—Verdict of Mountaineers That He Was Killed by Accidental Discharge of His Own Pistol Not Satisfactory to Any of His Friends, Who Believe He Was Murdered on Account of Hatred Engendered in Fight Against Moonshiners and Timber Cutters—Disappearance Closely Followed Raid on Illicit Still in Which One of the Band Was Shot to Death.



CROSS INDICATES
WHERE BODY WAS
DISCOVERED.



WHERE THE HORSE WAS FOUND
RORRING-CREEK FORGE



EDWARD WENTZ

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Big Stone Gap, Va., May 14.—One of the darkest and most mysterious tragedies these wild mountains have ever known is the death of Edward L. Wentz, a young Philadelphia millionaire, who disappeared on October 15, 1903, and whose body was found last Sunday on the north ridge of Big Black Mountain, with a bullet wound through the heart.

Mr. Wentz was engaged to marry Miss Cornelia Brookmire of St. Louis, who, with her mother, arrived in Philadelphia today to prosecute a vigorous investigation into his suspicious death.

A coroner's jury, composed of men in the employ of the company of which Mr. Wentz was general manager, has rendered a verdict of "death from the accidental discharge of the pistol of the deceased."

Public opinion, without hesitation, proclaims it murder or suicide. There is foundation for the theory of accidental death and for the murder theory.

MADE MANY ENEMIES.

The young man and the company he was with had made many enemies among the quick-shooting, law-despising miners. The Virginia Coal and Iron Company, through Mr. Wentz, its general manager, had pressed the moonshiners with a relentless hand.

PICTURESQUE COUNTRY.

The region in which this sensational tragedy occurred is one of the most picturesque in the United States. It is away down in the southwestern corner of Vir-

ginia, where the States of Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee meet. It is very mountainous and heavily wooded.

Beautiful streams run down the declivities and water the narrow, but fertile, valleys. It is a future paradise of the iron-miner, for the hills abound in coal, iron ore and limestone.

Had Mr. Wentz lived he would probably have seen his wealth more than doubled in the next ten years. He was interested in a property of great richness, and his company not only controlled coal and ore mines, but owned its own railroad and several million dollars worth of timber.

Edward L. Wentz was 25 years old and few young men had a happier lot than his seemed to be, or brighter prospects. He was descended from the well-known Wentz and Lentsch families, both Pennsylvania pioneers in the hard-coal fields. He was of gentle, but fearless, disposition, a splendid horseman, a crack shot and a devoted lover of outdoor sports.

BEGINS WORK EARLY.

As soon as he left school, unlike many rich young men, Mr. Wentz took an interest in business and came to the mountains of Virginia, where he speedily showed a lively desire to become an important factor in the business of coal mining and iron smelting, which had been established by the Virginia Coal and Iron Company.

This company controls a section of the mountains in some of the petty principalities of Europe. It consists of more than 60,000 acres of timber and mineral lands in one block. There are mines at Blackwood and Stonegap and at Big Stone Gap, where Mr. Wentz speedily became general manager of the company and also acted in the capacity of land agent of the company.

WAR IN THE HILLS.

In the Appalachian coal region and the mountains there is constant war. The mountaineers have called these hills and valleys their own for generations. Until lately no one restricted their hunting, their trapping or their timber cutting. They are for the most part very poor, generally ignorant, of deep prejudices,

strong personal loyalties, absolutely fearless and holding human life but very cheaply.

They are free and independent of the doing of modern society, and have their own code of living—and it is a code which seldom involves an appeal to the courts.

When a man has been deeply wronged, he wipes it out with blood. When the customs of his forefathers are encroached upon he resents it deeply. When one of his blood is slain, he feels that it is his duty to take vengeance on the slayer. In this country every man carries a gun and knows how to use it. The quickest way to end a "shooting scrape" is to shoot and say nothing about it afterward.

These strange people, belonging really to the period of Daniel Boone and Black Hawk, have not moved with the pace of the world. They have stood still, while Eastern capital has poured into these mountains, opening up coal mines that are the wonder of the world, denuding the mountain sides of a million dollars worth of timber a month, and driving railroads up valleys, through mountains and across great ravines.

MOONSHINERS HAMPERED.

With the coming of capital came a new order of things. The mountaineer is the maker of moonshine whisky. He has been hampered in this. There is less seclusion than formerly. In the mountain regions are numerous "dry towns." The hard-headed investors of the East and North discourage drinking among their men. Moonshiners have been crowded to the wall.

It was to this region that young Edward L. Wentz came. As general manager and land agent of the company, he had to go among the sons of the hills with their mode of life and code of morals of five generations ago.

Boone's Path is a station just below Big Stone Gap, where the famous Indian fighting Indians used to cross the mountains. The men and women, fresh from school, had to deal with, were practically the same kind of men of another period. They were the great grandsons of men who shouldered the flintlock and fought at Tippecanoe.

With the moonshiners and the trespassing young Wentz had to cope. The moonshiners insisted on selling the "mountain dew" to the men who worked in the mines of the Virginia Coal and Iron Company, when the company and the leading citizens had decreed that the country should go "dry."

RAID AND BATTLE.

Finally there was a raid of an illicit distillery on the company's land. A pitched battle was fought and a young moonshiner, named James Daniels, was killed. This was about six weeks before Mr. Wentz disappeared. It may be that this incident resulted in the young man becoming a marked man, but there is no direct evidence that there was any organized effort at seeking revenge by the moonshiners.

Trespassers who cut down timber were driven off or punished, and tenants who could not pay their rent were put out, but there is no evidence of any threats having been made against the life of the young over-seer.

The mountaineer makes no threat. If he feels himself offended he shoots. He does not talk about it before hand, nor does he tell about it afterward.

Mr. Wentz was the life of Big Stone Gap, Blackwood and Stonegap. He was full of vim and action. When he came here he joined the police guard, a sort of private local constabulary, sanctioned by a special act of the Virginia Legislature. It was not in the nature of a Vigilance Committee, but was formed for protection in a border community where protection was needed. Members of this police guard were all dead shots. They prevented several lynchings and saw that the law took its course. They also stood as guards at two or three executions.

WENTZ'S ROMANCE.

Although Mr. Wentz was of a retiring disposition among women and did not seek the pleasures of society, he had a love affair, and this is the only known thing that might furnish the slightest motive for self-destruction. He is reported to have been engaged to be married to Miss Cornelia Brookmire of St. Louis. She is a friend of the wife of his brother, Daniel Wentz.

Edward L. Wentz was of independent means. He inherited a fortune from an uncle. It is understood here that his family objected to the marriage, but not on account of the personality of the young woman.

Mr. Wentz built a handsome cottage in Big Stone Gap, presumably for his intended bride, and had furniture sent to it from the city. This furniture was never

unpacked and the house is unoccupied to this day.

He told as it may, young Wentz had made a will prior to his disappearance and in this will he is understood to have left his house, his horses and his dogs to his brother, Daniel, and a portion of his estate to Miss Brookmire, who was his fiancée. It is also stated that no portion of the estate is left to the parents of the young man.

But for the fact of Mr. Wentz's engagement, his reported disappointment and the making of a peculiar will, the theory that the young man had a motive for taking his life would have no foundation to rest upon.

Young Wentz, on October 13, the day before he disappeared, played a lively game of lawn tennis with John Goodloe. The next day he telephoned his assistant, Samuel Wax, that he was going to ride up Great River to see the assistant's brother, Charles Wax. He rode away to his death, first looking up his dogs.

HORSE IS FOUND.

Mr. Wentz's horse was found at Ramsey Creek Ford on the evening of that day, but no trace of the rider could be found. The telephone was used all over the county that night, and the search began next day. A reward of \$5,000 was offered for the return of Mr. Wentz. This was gradually raised to \$5,000. A band of 110 experienced woodmen started on the search. Later an organized party of 700 scoured the mountains by the foot. One day as high as 2,100 were looking for the missing millionaire.

No trace of Mr. Wentz could be found. No one could tell a thing about him. Theory after theory was formed and discarded. No hint of suicide was heard. It was believed the young man had either been kidnapped for ransom or had been murdered. The theory of foul play found the most believers.

As to the motive, there was enough, and to spare, to actuate the mind of a mountaineer in the shooting of James Daniels during the raid on the illicit still and "blind tier" on the company's property. This incident caused a great commotion among the mountaineers.

Daniels, literally riddled with bullets, was taken to the company's hospital in Stonegap, where he was treated. His mother and some of his half brothers went to see him, but failed, the doctors deciding that he was too low to have visitors.

RELATIVES ANGRY.

Daniels' relatives got the impression that the wounded man was tortured to death in the Stonegap Hospital, and as

they left one of them was heard to say:

"All right. Some day one of you'll be left sight of and not be heard from again."

A theory that finds many believers was that some of the friends of Daniels got wind of Mr. Wentz's movements on the day he telephoned his intentions to Samuel Wax of going to see Charles Wax, and waylaid him.

This would have been an easy matter, because the telephone line was a party line, on which were at least half a dozen other connections.

Gradually the searching parties were withdrawn and all hope of clearing the mystery was abandoned. It was thought by some that the young man had been murdered and buried in the wilderness, by others that he was being held a prisoner for ransom by outlaws whose nerve had failed them when they came to the point of opening communication with the family.

The finding of the body last Sunday afternoon came like a thunderclap from a clear sky. David Raleigh, who made the discovery, is a simple-minded mountaineer, who digs coal in the Pardee mines. It was not far from the road which had been made by loggers, but no person could have reached the place on horseback. It was a mile from the place where young Wentz's horse had been found, with the bridge ruins entangled in the bushes.

IDENTIFICATION COMPLETE.

Identification of the body was complete. This was not difficult, although little remained but a skeleton. It wore the well-known riding clothes of E. L. Wentz. This was identified even to the spurs. Doctor Malcolm Campbell and Doctor J. W. Kelley found that the young man had died of a bullet wound through the heart. The bullet had entered chest and lodged in the muscles of the back, going almost straight through, but slightly downward. The ball had passed through the right ventricle of the heart and Mr. Wentz had died of hemorrhage while lying on his back.

A close examination of the report of the inquest fails to show that any effort was made to have the doctors explain the falling out of twelve teeth, while the others remained firmly fixed in the jaws. The bullet found in the body corresponded with those in the pistol.

A new and astonishing turn was given to the investigation when the men in charge of the search for young Wentz last October were called. William Hayes, who was in charge of one section of the party that scoured the woods for Mr. Wentz, testified that the men and he went over the exact spot where the skeleton was found on the fifth day of the search and the eleventh day of the disappearance of the young man. Mr. Hayes pointed out a poplar tree that he went past, and measurements showed that he was 123 feet from where the body was found by

Raleigh. There were two men on either side of him and the men in line kept in position so as to search every foot of ground. One of them passed over the exact spot where Raleigh found the body.

CLEWS IGNORED.

The testimony was all taken in one day. No attempt was made to follow out clues. That was left to the future, and the jury, with division, brought in a verdict that the man was killed by the accidental discharge of his own pistol. The body was taken that night in a special train to Philadelphia for burial.

The jury's finding by no means ended the speculation. There was absolutely no evidence to show that Mr. Wentz's pistol had been discharged by accident. Even if such evidence had been produced it could have had little convincing effect, because a pistol so discharged would not have put a ball through Mr. Wentz's body from front to back, but downward, and would have wounded him in the leg or groin.

No one in Big Stone Gap was satisfied with the verdict. There are few who believe that Wentz was killed where he was found. The testimony of the searchers goes to support the theory that he met his death elsewhere and was removed to the place where David Raleigh found him after the search had been abandoned.

The only money found on the body was 2 cents, yet it is known that Mr. Wentz usually went about with a considerable sum on his person.

MISS BROOKMIRE ATTENDED WENTZ'S FUNERAL THURSDAY

REPUBLIC SPECIAL.

Philadelphia, May 14.—Miss Cornelia Brookmire, the St. Louis fiancée of Edward L. Wentz, was among the mourners at the funeral of the young man on Thursday last, although this fact was not allowed to become public until today.

Miss Brookmire arrived in this city on Thursday morning from St. Louis and was met by Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Wentz and registered at the Aldine Hotel.

At the funeral, which was held from the Wentz home in West Philadelphia, she was present, joining with the family in the services at Woodlands Cemetery. She was dressed in heavy mourning. After the funeral she did not return to the hotel, and it is believed she remained at the family home.

MANY NEW EXHIBITS
ARE BEING OPENED

Visitors Received in German Section of Agriculture Building, and Luncheon Served.

GIANT TELESCOPE ERECTED.

Piano Recitals Will Be Given by Russian Woman in Palace of Liberal Arts—General Notes.

One by one the formal openings of foreign exhibit sections are taking place, marking the completion of installation in the various exhibit palaces.

Their installation, the palaces have assumed a finished appearance, and it will be but a few days hence that the percentage of completion in all the palaces may be fixed at 85.

The German section in the Agricultural building was opened at 11 o'clock yesterday morning. The opening was informal, and many visitors were present. The exhibit contains an elaborate display of all food products, wine and liquors, a complete laboratory, where chemical analyses of all foods, wines, liquors and waters are made.

In the center of the section is a large fountain of Rheingold, casting the treasures of Nibelungen to the Rhine nymphs. Paintings of Frankfurt-on-the-Main, the old City Hall of Munich and scenes along the Rhine decorate the walls. A German luncheon was served to all visitors.

Venezuela, Texas, New Zealand, Hayti and Wisconsin have installed exhibits in the Palace of Forestry, Fish and Game. Venezuela's exhibit shows 200 distinct fibers from trees, 60 kinds of wood and a complete exhibit of drugs prepared from plants, being the first of the kind ever exhibited in this country.

Brazil has a handsome booth well filled with Brazilian products in the Palace of Liberal Arts. The work on the display is now about completed. It includes musical instruments of brass and wood, some particularly the mandolin being shown. Large pictures showing the scenic industry adorn the walls and an extensive collection of drugs is exhibited.

The electric power for operating the machinery in the Graphic Art section of the

Palace of Liberal Arts was turned on yesterday.

A connecting telescope of practically the same pattern as the famous Lick Observatory instrument and the later and larger Yerkes telescope of the University of Chicago, has just been erected by the makers of these other two instruments on their space in the Palace of Liberal Arts. This is a 24-inch equatorial telescope of the latest model. It is valued at about \$4,000.

A collection of about fifty cuckoo clocks has been added to the exhibits in the Palace of Liberal Arts. These are the Black Forest clocks of Germany and are of all sizes and varieties, most of them being elaborately carved. Some of them are so constructed that a small music box concealed within, plays a melody at every hour.

Beginning with the list of June regular piano recitals will be given by Miss Sturkow, Russian pianist, in the booth of one of the piano companies in the Palace of Liberal Arts. Miss Sturkow, who comes from St. Petersburg, has been engaged in concert work in Chicago recently, and her playing has been enthusiastically received there.

The recitals will be arranged for convenient hours in the afternoon, and seats will be provided for the lady visitors. No charge of any kind will be made.

On top of the pyramidal apple exhibit of Indian Territory, in the Palace of Horticulture, are three Indian images. The Indian fronting east bids defiance to civilization and to the pilgrim fathers when they landed at Plymouth Rock. The figure facing west represents the Indian dying. Immigrants to California with a Springfield rifle instead of the tomahawk, bow and arrow. The third figure represents the Indian of 1890, after the United States had made treaties with the Five Civilized Tribes, holding the American flag, showing they had yielded to civilization.

French Ambassador Coming. J. J. Jusserand, Ambassador of France to the United States, will reach St. Louis

tonight at 6:45. He will be received at Union Station by French Commissioner General Michel Lagrange, assisted by all the members of the French Commission.

PRINCE PU LUN DEPARTS; GIVES SCREEN TO FRANCIS.

Heir to Chinese Throne Sends Gifts to Fair Officials and Receives Watch—Will Return.

Just before his departure yesterday morning Prince Pu Lun of China sent to President Francis of the World's Fair a magnificent panel screen which had adorned the imperial palace at Peking for 30 years.

The heir to the Chinese throne received Friday a handsome gold watch from President Francis. The Prince sent gifts to various Exposition officials and to private individuals who had entertained him in St. Louis.

An informal levee was held in the Prince's private car at Union Station, where he accepted the good wishes of distinguished friends and expressed his appreciation of the Fair, St. Louis and her people.

After visiting Chicago, Indianapolis and New York, Prince Pu Lun will return to St. Louis before his departure for China. He will sail from New York on June 15. Wong Kai Kan and the royal suite accompany the Prince on his journey.

DOCTOR LEWALD IN CINCINNATI.

Doctor Theodore Lewald, Commissioner General of Germany to the World's Fair, is in Cincinnati, the guest of Prince Hohenzollern-Schillingenswerth. He will return to the World's Fair next Tuesday.

JUNE 4 TO BE PIKE DAY AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

Place of St. Louis Will Be the Scene of Many Remarkable Spectacles and Odd Features.

The Exposition management and the Exposition Concessionaires' Association have combined to make Pike Day, June 4, the most ambitious assembly of amusements ever crowded into a programme twelve hours in length. On that occasion the entire Exposition will be given over to a festival of entertainments.

The beautiful Plaza of St. Louis will become the scene of several remarkable spectacles, including a slide by the teeth from the dome of Festival Hall into the Grand Basin, a distance of nearly 2,000 feet; the Ballet of All Nations, on an immense stage, to be constructed in the plaza; wonderful aerial feats and other novelties, given at stated hours in the other plazas and boulevards of the Exposition.

These special features of the day are aside from the Pike parade, of which the one on the opening day is but a shadowy forerunner. On the date of the Pike celebration all of the paraphernalia to be used during the season by the various showmen will be at their disposal for the grand display, which is estimated, will cost \$5,000 in floats and in the trappings of animals.

The programme will last from 10 a. m. to 10 p. m. June 4, every hour within that period being filled with startling features. The Ballet of All Nations, for instance, will be a potpourri of forty-seven differ-

ent kinds of dancing, with as many costumes, representing about twenty-eight different countries. The most complete orchestral accompaniment will in itself become a big feature.

A water carnival is being planned for the lagoons. All of the details of the programme will be worked out by a committee, including H. P. McClary, president of the Exposition Concessionaires' Association; Frederick Cummins, Major T. S. Clark and Eugene W. Handlan.

NO COMPENSATION.

Governor Francis Does Not Receive Salary From the Exposition.

Two business men of St. Louis have made a wager on the question of the salary of ex-Governor Francis as President of the Exposition company. They ask The Republic to decide the question and publish the decision.

Governor Francis has from the first declared that he would not accept compensation. Within a week the matter came up again at a meeting of the Board of Directors, and again the President stated that he would under no circumstances permit the question of compensation to be considered; that he had accepted the duty as an obligation of citizenship and would so hold to the end. It can, therefore, be stated as a settled fact that Governor Francis has not received and will not receive any compensation whatever beyond his gratification at the success of the Exposition.

Lady Managers' House.

The official name of the building used by the Board of Lady Managers at the World's Fair is the House of the Board of Lady Managers. The members of the board do not think that the word "building" properly expresses the spirit of hospitality extended by the members to visiting women.

Miss Egan, the secretary of the board, has made this announcement for the president, Mrs. Mann.

RICHARD HEUBERGER ARRIVES.

Vienna Bandmaster Will Lead Expedition Orchestra.

Richard Heuberger, one of the Vienna bandmasters engaged by the Bureau of Music at the World's Fair to direct the Expedition Band in the Tyrolean Alps, arrived in St. Louis Friday night today to take charge of the men next week.

He will be succeeded by Karl Komzak of Vienna, who will have charge of the band until the close of the Exposition.

AINIS ARE BUILDING HUTS.

Material Arrives in a Car Which Has Traveled Many Hundreds of Miles.

A carload of material, consigned to the Aino colony at the World's Fair, arrived yesterday after having traveled over various parts of the United States.

This car was lost after leaving San Francisco, and the Exposition management was three weeks in locating it. The car contained material for the Aino huts, which will be occupied by the primitive folk from Northern Japan. The erection of the huts began yesterday. The Aino colony will join the Patagonian section at the World's Fair.

Lecture on Caylon.

A lecture on "Caylon, the Eden of the East" will be delivered before the Missouri Historical Society to-morrow evening, at the lecture rooms of the society. The lecturer is John P. Ferguson, of the Legislative Council of Caylon, representative of that country at the Exposition.

Fifty of ice at the Fair.